

# 30TH YEAR

## Featuring

- Phew! What a scorcher!



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# Ludlow Twinning News

Ludlow Twinning News 25

June 2017

## Phew what a scorcher!

For this special 30th anniversary, Ludlow and La Ferté Macé were joined by our German friends from Neustadt am Rügenberge. Our reception was attended by the present Mayor, M Jacques Dalmont and those who were in office at inception and the twentieth anniversaries of twinning. Speeches in three languages took longer than usual so the impatience of the children who wanted a piece of the commemoration cake was quite understandable!

The extra day's visit for all the special events was most welcome due to the excellent weather, with the temperature continuing to rise steadily throughout the visit.

Everyone quietly enjoyed Alençon's charm on the Ascension Day holiday as the former lace town basked in sunshine.

The Medieval architecture in Orbec was likewise enjoyed in temperatures of over 30 degrees, so many were grateful to view cheese production in the air conditioning at Grandorge's ultra modern fromagerie near Livarot. The visit to Montormel memorial, near Falaise, reminded us all of the horrors experienced by those who fought at the last major battle for Normandy in August 1944, where ten thousand died in three days.

The special tour of Bagnoles de l'Orne highlighted the town's railway and metalworking origins, and the subsequent Donald Trump-like creation of the spa, casinos and Belle Epoque quarter.

The Saturday dinner at Domfront provided a most suitable and enjoyable climax to the planned events.



### A good idea



On board the *Normandie* the Ludlow twinningers await their call to disembark in one of the ship's cinemas after a very pleasant crossing from Portsmouth to Ouistreham. This new arrangement is very comfortable for passengers because it avoids standing around on deck waiting. For disembarkation to work 100%, Brittany Ferries **must**, however, ensure that their official is there to make the call for passengers to disembark and join their coach.

Your Committee have suggested how the new system to

clear Border Controls and Customs can be improved to avoid the need for passengers to get on and off their coaches .

We expect Brittany Ferries to look favourably upon our suggestion, which we shall pursue.

**Yvon Jestin's message to us following the Manchester atrocity**

### Tribute to the people of Manchester

'Nous avons tous été choqués par l'attentat odieux perpétré dans une salle de spectacle de Manchester. Encore une fois, c'est notre joie de vivre qui est visée et en faisant d'autant plus de

de douleur que les victimes sont des familles et leurs enfants. Nous portons notre émotion vers les victimes, leur famille et tous ceux qui ont vécu de très près cette horreur. Ici, dans une Europe en paix, nous

sommes des cibles privilégiées pour ces fanatiques. Mais notre meilleure résistance est de continuer à vivre normalement !!

Notre amitié à toutes et à tous,

Yvon Jestin



## Our welcome at La Ferté Macé

Over 100 Fertois and fellow twinnings from Neustadt am Rubenberge crowded onto the Mairie steps at La Ferté Macé to express their solidarity, sympathy and support following the terrorist attack at the Ariane Grande concert on 22 May. On the left Bernard Blondeel is holding the Union Jack at half mast and Mayor Jacques Dalmont is showing the support of the whole town for those who suffered and the many Mancunians who helped alleviate their suffering.



## The reception

Inside the Mairie the reception was attended by present members and those who conceived of our special relationship thirty years ago and have subsequently sustained it. Some were in political office and some on the twinning committees on both sides of the channel at inception and the twentieth anniversaries of twinning. Speeches in three languages took longer than usual so the impatience of the children who wanted a piece

of the commemoration cake was quite understandable!

Our Chair, Sylvia Duffy, was presented on our behalf with gift boxes of local and regional speciality 'bio' food and beverages. These will be used for our fund-raising, to be raffled at our next social event – probably a barbecue and boules in the August school holidays! Look out for it!

## The 30 year cake

The cake to commemorate thirty years of Anglo-French Twinning between Ludlow and La Ferté Macé bears not only the coats of arms of the two towns but also of La Ferté Macé's other official twinning partner, Neustadt am Rübnerberge, a town of 45,000 in Hannover, Lower Saxony.



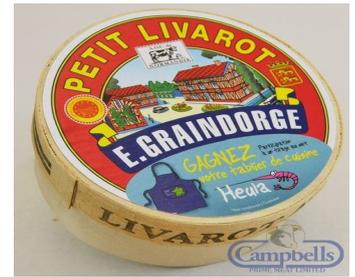


A typical Orbec building

## Le trajet de Bernard

You've got it now? Yes, Bernard is the one with the moustache who organizes some of our trips in France. It was his 'trajet' that took us to Orbec and the source of the river at the underground caves. Then to the fromagerie at Liverot before Vimoutiers, Trun and Argentan. You may have noticed on the trip some places with

names such as *St German de Montgomery* and wondered 'what on earth is going on here? Can't the French spell properly? Well, er, it's not quite like that and here's the explanation: Montgomery was actually an ancient name of some Anglo-French barons from Alençon.



**Orbec was interesting for its architecture, its geology and its history**

## An irony of history

Now that you have read a little of the origin of the name Montgomery, you may understand why this article is entitled 'An irony of history'. We have mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter the great battles of the Normandie campaign during World War Two. The irony is that two of the main protagonists, Field Marshals Montgomery (British) and Rommel (German) both 'came' from the area where they were engaged in conflict.



Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

## The double irony

Rommel's family once lived at Alençon. They were a protestant family who sought refuge in modern day Germany after the Edict of Nantes of 1685 persecuted those who did not follow the Roman Catholic faith.

The double irony is that Rommel was killed in the area, too. His car, when strafed by Spitfire bullets struck a tree causing fatal injuries to the field Marshal.



Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery



The Ludlow choir's offering ranged from *Ash Grove* to *Dominus Nobis Pacem* and the *Drunken Sailor*. The latter was a special request from La Ferté, which was augmented by a real drunken sailor of unknown provenance. The choir, from left to right, were:

Andrew Pike

John French

Didier Thévenard

Dave Chapman

Ros Roberts

Sheila French

Shirley Davies

Sylvia Duffy

Marilyn Piper

Linda

Senior

Pam Thompson

Judith Collier

Pauline Oram

**The 30th Anniversary songs, dinner and dance was extremely well-received by all concerned**

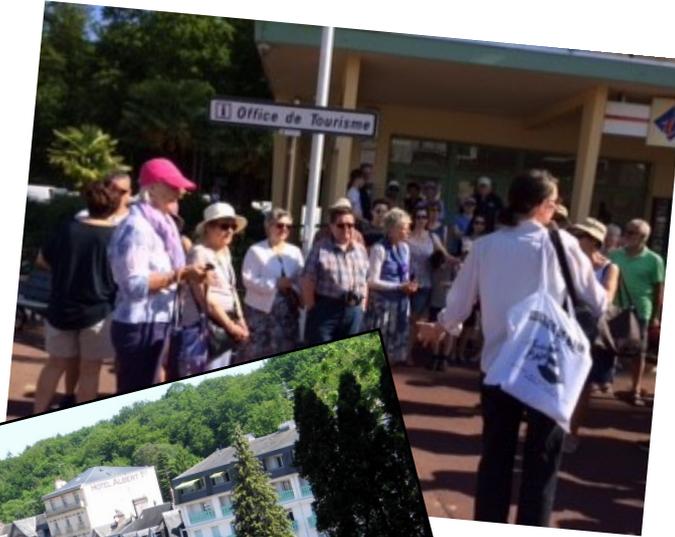
## The drunken sailor

We don't know whether he was found in a Ouistreham Bar or whether he went overboard on the D-Day landings, but there will be more about him and his dissolute thirty years in the next news letter.



## Bagnoles visitors

**A large group  
of all ages  
joined the visit  
to Bagnoles de  
L'Orne**



The centre of the town

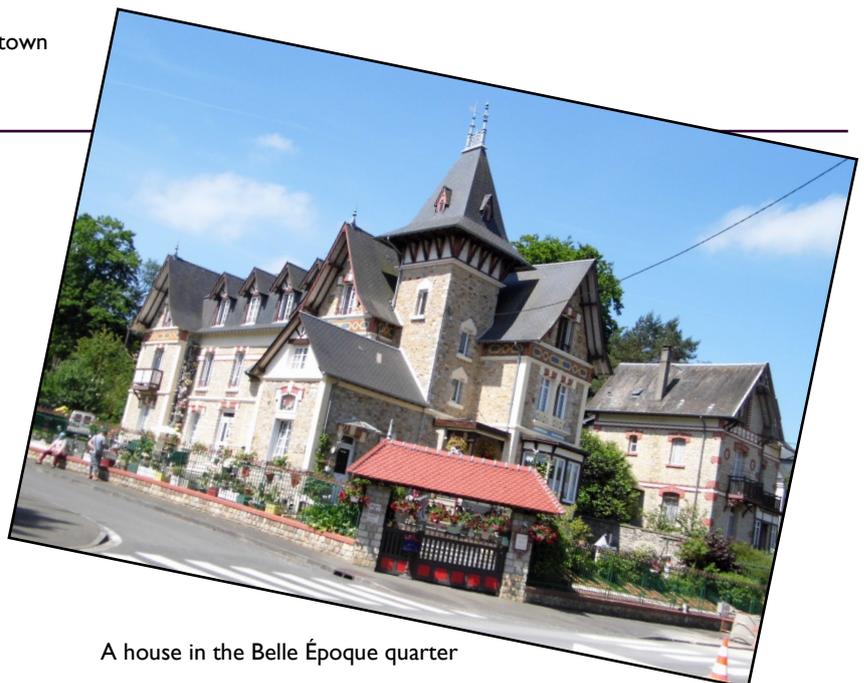
## A different story

Pauline Vollais, directrice de l'Office de Tourisme at Bagnoles volunteered to escort our group so that 'she could practice her English'. She told us things that we had never before heard. First of all she told us that the origin of Bagnoles was industrial: it had the ingredients to make iron. But it had to use wood not coal and ironmaking died out in favour of north east France which did have coal. But the railway was there so why not use it? Let's fill that big hole that we have excavated for limestone, fill it with water and bring the tourists here.

## A Belle époque

One enterprising American, who we can call the Donald Trump of his day, took matters further and built hotels and casinos around the lake. And why not use the waters for a Health Spa, just like Harrogate or Llandrindod Wells.

That wasn't all. By the beginning of the last century more and more houses were built in the lovely Belle Époque quarter to make the town what it is today



A house in the Belle Époque quarter

## Pauline's group

Everybody, including the dog is listening to Pauline Vollais' excellent rendition of the Bagnoles story. From this viewpoint on the lakeside she showed the group the various hotels, and casinos and explained the changes over the years. And I've forgotten: as well as the dog, there was even a cormorant listening to her fascinating animation.



## Velorail extension

It does not look much, but this is the old station at Bagnoles which once brought the tourists to the town. Velorail is simply a cart which runs on tracks and is propelled by pedal power. The word is that the civil engineering work that is now underway between Bagnoles and La Ferté will soon enable pedal pushing on rail for the rest of the five or so kilometres between the towns. Can't wait till 2019!



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## Electric vehicles at La Ferté Macé

Since our last visit in 2015 the town has installed four electric vehicle (EV) charging points. Unlike Ludlow, which needs to keep polluting and congesting vehicles out of the town centre, La Ferté Macé is doing more and more to make the place attractive for visitors and residents. The town has a declining population which may well continue without initiatives such as this. Users do not pay to re-charge.



## LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

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### Photograph credits

All members are invited to submit relevant information or images for this newsletter.

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[www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk](http://www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk)



## Your committee June 2017

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### Twinning of Ludlow and La Ferté-Macé - Declaration of future co-operation

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the original Twinning Document (on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1988), the elected representatives of the towns of Ludlow and La Ferté-Macé take this opportunity to refine the objectives of the twinning between their towns.

In the spirit of friendship and civic pride, and in the context of furthering co-operation and understanding between peoples across Europe, the towns of Ludlow and La Ferté-Macé hereby commit themselves, through their respective twinning associations, to developing ever closer ties to their mutual benefit.

These ties will be designed to further co-operation in the economic, educational, cultural, social and sporting areas, with special focus on the following:

1. Sustainable economic activities in industry, agriculture and crafts undertaken by individuals or through professional associations, and including apprenticeships or traineeships;
2. Exchanges between Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Colleges, covering both academic and vocational training fields;
3. Cultural activities (for example: music, singing, theatre, dance) with a particular emphasis on involving young people;
4. Social exchanges, especially between families and groups;
5. Sporting activities, with the involvement of clubs and societies to encourage exchanges through sport.

We commit our towns to further these objectives, and will support our respective twinning associations to this end.

*G. M. Glaze*  
Marie Glaze  
Mayor of Ludlow

Ludlow, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

Jacques Dalmont  
Mayor of La Ferté-Macé

Although twinning between Ludlow and La Ferté Macé has been running successfully for thirty years, the ties have become even stronger. The document above was signed in 2008, after the 20th anniversary of twinning to further endorse everyone's commitment .